

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 RSR-01 /081 W

----- 065011

R 150915 Z MAY 73

FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9566

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL KARACHI

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: UDF DECIDES TO RUN AGREED CANDIDATES IN SENATE AND
GENERAL ELECTIONS

1. UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT (UDF) VICE PRESIDENT MUFTI
MAHMOOD TOLD LAHORE NEWSMEN MAY 14 AFTER TWO DAY MEETING
OF UDF GENERAL COUNCIL THAT UDF WOULD RUN AGREED CANDIDATES
IN BOTH SENATORIAL AND GENERAL ELECTIONS. INDIVIDUAL UDF
PARTIES WOULD NOT PUT THEIR OWN CANDIDATES FORWARD BUT
CANDIDATES WOULD BE NOMINATED BY UDF PROVINCIAL ACTION
COMMITTEES WITH RIGHT OF APPEAL TO CENTRAL ACTION COMMITTEE.
ALTHOUGH IT NOT CLEAR, WE ASSUME UDF- BACKED CANDIDATES WILL
RUN UNDER INDIVIDUAL PARTY LABELS.
2. MAHMOOD SAID CENTRAL COUNCIL HAD NOMINATED 10 MEMBER COMMITTEE
REPRESENTING ALL FACTIONS OF UDF TO FORMULATE JOINT ELECTION
MANIFESTO AND COMMON PROGRAM OF ACTION BY JULY 1. MANIFESTO
WOULD NOT CONFLICT WITH THOSE OF INDIVIDUAL PARTIES WHICH
WOULD BE FREE TO FORMULATE THEIR OWN ELECTION PLATFORMS UNDER
COMMON UMBRELLA OF UDF MANIFESTO.
3. UDF PRESIDENT PIR PAGARO, WHO SCHEDULED TO CHAIR MEETING

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DID NOT ARRIVE IN LAHORE AND MUFTI MAHMOOD EXPLAINED THAT HE ILL AND TAKING REST ORDERED BY DOCTORS. IN REPLY QUERY, MAHMOOD SAID AIR MARSHALL ASGHAR KHAN BEING APPROACHED TO JOIN UDF AND CLAIMED THAT PRESS REPORTS THAT ASGHAR HAD REFUSED TO JOIN UDF WERE FALSE. HE ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT MAJLIS- E-AHRAR (NOW NEARLY DEFUNCT BUT ONCE STRONG PRO- INDEPENDENCE PARTY) HAD JOINED UDF.

4. COMMENT: UDF AGREEMENT ON CANDIDATES FOR SENATE SHOULD GIVE UDF REASONABLE REPRESENTATION IN THAT BODY. WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT SITUATION IS VAGUELY REMINISCENT OF ANTI- AYUB STRUGGLE OF 1968-69, WITH UDF PLAYING ROLE OF DEMOCRATIC ACTION COMMITTEE AND ALOOF AIR MARSHALL TRYING TO PLAY ROLE OF LONER THEN HELD BY BHUTTO.

DECONTROL DEC 31, 1976

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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